

1. A method of correlating text and imagery, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 specifying a target concept;
 - providing textual material and imagery;
 - 4 training a text search detector to examine the textual material for text regions which relate to the target concept, and creating a text target detection record in a database
 - 6 A in the event of a match or other meaningful association;
training a discriminating feature detector to search for locations within the
 - 8 imagery which relate to the target concept, and creating a location target detection record in a database B in the event of a match or other meaningful association; and
 - 10 comparing the records in both databases to declare an approximate correlation, if any, indicative of a common target concept.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the target concept is an event or object.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the discriminating features within the
- 2 imagery include infrared, multispectral or spatial features.

4. Wherein the step of training the text search detector includes the steps of:
 - 2 a) defining a search phrase;
 - b) testing the phrase against a validation set, and
 - 4 c) repeating a) and b) until all relevant targets in the validation set are detected.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the examination of the textual material
2 includes searching the text regions for geographic location text associated with the target
concept.

6. The method of claim 1, further including the step of generating a concept
2 identifier code in both the text and image target detection records using a lookup table in
the event of a match or other meaningful association.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the searching of the test regions is
2 accomplished by reference to a Gazetteer of place names and their corresponding lat-long
locations.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the text target detection record contains:
2 a text document ID number,
an index to locate a paragraph or passage within the document,
4 the target concept identifier code (CIC), and
the latitude-longitude (LL) value.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the search for locations within the
2 imagery includes extracting a lat-long location.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the location target detection record
2 contains:

an image ID number,
4 an index to locate the target within the image,
the target concept identifier code (CIC), and
6 the latitude-longitude (LL) value.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the target within the image is in the form
2 of a pixel index.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein:
2 the searching of the test regions is accomplished by reference to a Gazetteer of
place names and their corresponding lat-long locations; and
4 the text target detection record contains:

a text document ID number,
6 an index to locate a paragraph or passage within the document,
the target concept identifier code (CIC), and
8 the latitude-longitude (LL) value.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein criteria for declaring an approximate
2 correlation between two the records, A and B, includes:

IF CIC in record A = CIC in record B,

4 THEN record A and record B are associated.

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14. The method of claim 14, wherein the criteria for declaring an approximate
2 correlation between two the records, A and B, further includes:

IF (LL) in record A is within S of (LL) in record B,

4 THEN Record A and Record B are associated,

where S is a user-selectable spatial distance.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the event may be characterized as an
2 emergency, tragedy, disaster or crisis.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the object involves an environmental
2 asset, structure, or mode of transportation.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein either or both of the steps associated with
2 examining the textual material or searching for locations within the imagery are carried
out in a batch mode or as part of a recursive flow.

18. A text and imagery spatial correlator, comprising:
2 a document text parsing and interpretation engine which uses a context-based
search to generate topical information;
4 an imagery engine operative to associate the components of an image with known

spatial features and generate location information; and

- 6 a matching subsystem operative to associate the topical information with the
location information and present a result to a user.

19. The text and imagery spatial correlator of claim 18, wherein text parsing
2 and interpretation engine includes a user-trainable agent to define the context of interest
in a current search.

20. The text and imagery spatial correlator of claim 18, wherein the topical
2 information concerns an event or an object.

21. The text and imagery spatial correlator of claim 20, wherein the event may
2 be characterized as an emergency, tragedy, disaster or crisis.

22. The text and imagery spatial correlator of claim 20, wherein the object
2 involves an environmental asset, structure or mode of transportation.

23. The text and imagery spatial correlator of claim 18, wherein the matching
2 subsystem is operative to associate the topical information with the location information
in a batch mode or as part of a recursive flow.